

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

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BEIRUT FOR RTDO

COMMERCE ALSO FOR HUD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IZ

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT EARLY WARNING: IRAQ LOW COST HOUSING
SCHEME

1. DG OF HOUSING IN MINIZ

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-2.))&-*?/7 8,& ?483*3\$:8 858,&

.49 (8))OUGH AND USINT MAY 11 ON CZGIXMSUS LOW-COST HOUSING PROJECT
AND REQUESTED THAT U.S. MANUFACTURERS, DESIGNERS AND CONSULTANTS
CONTACT MINISTRY ASAP TO EXPLORE WAYS IN WHICH THEY COULD ASSIST
PROJECT.

2. MINISTRY IS IN VERY EARLY STAGE OF PREPARING PLAN TO PROVIDE
135,000 SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS (MIX OF TWO AND THREE BEDROOM
APARTMENTS AND DETACHED HOUSES) PER YEAR FOR NEXT 20 YEARS
PRELIMINARY THINKING ENVISAGES MIX OF 4 STOREY APARTMENT
BUILDINGS (WITHOUT ELEVATORS) AND 8 STOREY APARTMENT BUILDINGS
(WITH ELEVATORS) IN VARIOUS URBAN CENTERS. MINISTRY PLANS TO
OPEN BIDS MAY 15 FOR TWO FACTORIES TO PRODUCED CONCRETE
PREFABRICATED HOUSING MATERIAL--ONE IN BAGHDAD CAPABLE OF
PRODUCING MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR 3,000 DWELLINGS PER YEAR AND
ONE IN BASRA (2,000 FLATS PER YEAR). AT SAME TIME MINISTRY
RECEIVED APPROVAL LAST WEEK TO CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL BIDS
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ON EIGHT MORE SUCH PREFAB FACTORIES, WITH AN AVERAGE CAPACITY

TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION OF 3,000 APARTMENTS PER YEAR. APARTMENTS ARE IN TWO STYLES AND SIZES--TWO BEDROOM (100 SQUARE METERS) AND THREE BEDROOM 125 SQUARE METERS). VERY GENERAL MINISTRY BROCHURE ABOUT PROJECT BEING POUCHED SEPARATELY TO COMMERCE/NESA.

3. MINISTRY OFFICERS SAID GOI HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING LINE UP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM UN AND OTHER SOURCES BUT SO FAR WITH NO RESULTS. MINISTRY OFFICIALS STRONGLY REQUESTED USINT GIVE OUTLINE TO COMPETENT U.S. FIRMS OF IRAQ'S URGENT NEED AND SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FIRST EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST "NEXT WEEK". U.S. CONSULTANTS WOULD BE EXPECTED MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT CONSTRUCTION BASED ON MAXIMUM USE OF ABUNDANT IRAQI BUILDING MATERIALS (CEMENT, BRICK) AND TO DESIGN PROGRAM IN TRAINING IRAQI BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS.

4. ACTION RECOMMENDED: (A) REQUEST COMMERCE PASS THIS MESSAGE AT ONCE TO AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (AIA) HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND FIRMS IN POSITION RESPOND TO MINISTRY'S NEED FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES, BUILDING MATERIALS AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE. RECOMMEND THAT INTERESTED U.S. PARTIES SEND ASAP BROCHURES DESCRIBING THEIR DESIGN AND/OR PLANNING CAPABILITIES AND IDENTIFYING SIMILAR PROJECTS ON WHICH THEY HAVE WORKED AROUND THE WORLD. SIMILARLY MANUFACTURERS OF PREFAB AND MODULAR HOUSING AND MATERIALS AS WELL AS SUPPLIERS OF SANITARY WARE AND FIRMS WITH ABILITY ERECT TURNKEY FACTORIES FOR PREFAB MATERIAL SHOULD ALSO MAKE THEMSELVES KNOWN AT ONCE. MATERIAL SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HOUSING, MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING, BAGHDAD, IRAQ. (B) REQUEST HUD PREPARE FOR POST'S PRESENTATION TO MINISTRY BRIEFING KIT ON 7. . MODEL CITIES PROGRAM--WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON LOW-COST HOUSING, STYLES, DESIGNS, MATERIALS, CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING (FOR BOTH DRY AND HUMID CLIMATE), INSULATION MATERIALS, LATEST USES OF SOLAR ENERGY, TOWN PLANNING AND OTHER INFORMATION WHICH HUD THINKS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE--INCLUDING LIST OF FORTHCOMING TECHNICAL SEMINARS, EXHIBITIONS AND SYMPOSIA IN WHICH IRAQI DECISION-MAKERS AND TECHNICIANS MIGHT USEFULLY TAKE PART. IF HUD IN POSITION ISSUE FORMAL INVITATION TO MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO READ PAPERS ON IRAQI SITUATION, FOR ANY GIVEN SEMINAR, ETC. POST BELIEVES THIS WOULD BE MOST TIMELY.

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5. COMMENT: GOI COMMITMENT TO SOLUTION OF NATION'S HOUSING NEEDS IS SERIOUS AND SUSTAINED. U.S. FIRMS SELECTED BY MINISTRY AS ADVISERS, CONSULTANTS, ETC. COULD ANTICIPATE YEARS OF PROFITABLE COLLABORATION.
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